Amendments to the Claims:

1 - 5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ control system according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 11, wherein ~~a step of assigning and/or taking away a capability of detecting the status data using existing communications paths is carried out~~ the central control station controls offloading of the work of assessing status data of other control units by activating or deactivating an executable ~~programs which are~~ program stored in the at least one control unit ~~or which are transmitted by downloading~~.

7-8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ control system according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 11, wherein the status data ~~detected~~ assessed by the ~~microprocessor~~ at least one control unit with the master capability are transmitted to the central control station at predetermined time intervals.

10.   (Previously Presented) A control system suitable for controlling an optical measurement device or observation device with parts to be controlled comprising:

a plurality of control units for controlling the parts;

a control station which, when required, generates a map of the overall status of the control system based on status data of the plurality of control units, the control station being capable of assessing status data of the plurality of control units; and

at least one of the plurality of control units having a master capability of detecting and/or automatically assessing status data of other control units of the plurality of control units so as to offload the work of assessing status data of the other control units from the control station and transmitting the detected status data and a determined assessment to the control station.

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11.   (Previously Presented) A control system suitable for controlling an optical measurement or observation device having a plurality of adjustable elements, the control system comprising:

a plurality of control units with each controlling an associated adjustable element;

a central control station having a master capability to control the adjustable elements through the control units by issuing adjustment commands to and assessing status data from the plurality of control units; and

at least one of the plurality of control units having a processor with a master capability of:

assessing status data of other control units so as to offload the work of assessing status data from the central control station; and

transmitting the assessed status data to the central control station.

12.   (Previously Presented) The control system according to claim 11, wherein an executable program that assesses the status data of the control units is downloaded from the central control station and stored in the at least one control unit with the master capability to offload the work of assessing the status data.

13.   (Currently Amended) The control system according to claim 11, wherein the work of assessing status data that has been offloaded from the central control station includes repeatedly polling ~~the~~ at least one other control unit and receiving an indication from the at least one other control unit that the adjustment command has been completed.